



## Maine Forest Service Consultants Newsletter & Ice Storm Update #11 September 2000



### TREE GROWTH TAX LAW UPDATE

Landowners who prudently had their management plans done long before the December 31, 2000 deadline may now be facing the ten year requirement for recertification. According to Larry Record at the Maine Bureau of Revenue Services (formerly called "Taxation"), when a landowner completes a 10 year recertification he has to do **BOTH** of the following:

1. Have his management plan updated by a Maine licensed forester (check off #2 under Part B on the TGTL Schedule for Classification of Land as Forest Land); **AND**
2. Have a Maine licensed forester inspect the land and swear that the landowner is following the forest management plan (check off #3 under Part B on the TGTL Schedule).

When recertifying, the landowner needs to submit to the town (or the state if the property is in the unorganized territories) a new Schedule for Classification of Land as Forest Land, with both #2 and #3 checked off and filled out completely and signed by both the forester and the landowner, and a copy of the map that was drawn up for the updated plan.

### FALL CONSULTING FORESTER TRAINING SCHEDULED

The Maine Forest Service will be offering two opportunities for consulting foresters to receive professional development training this fall. The sessions, which will be held on Monday, October 23 in Alfred and Tuesday, October 24 in Houlton, will cover BMP planning in relation to timber harvesting, riparian area management, watershed issues, and a field trip to sites where BMPs have been used effectively. Foresters will receive 5 hours of category I credits towards their Maine license. Registration materials will be mailed out the second week of September. Registration will be limited to 50 people per site, so register early.

CFI plot - "Couldn't Find It."

### FORESTRY EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sept. 9 SWOAM's Fifth Annual Forestry Fair, Leonard's Mills, Bradley
- Sept. 16 Blacksmith's Roundup, Leonard's Mills, Bradley.
- Sept. 22-24 Common Ground Fair, Unity
- October 1-8 Fryeburg Fair, Fryeburg
- October 7-8 Living History Days, Leonard's Mills, Bradley.
- October 10 SWOAM, Sanford. Panel discussion on forest referendum. Jonathan Carter will be on the panel to defend his position. For more information, call Peter Lawrence at (207) 772-6863.
- October 11 Forestry Workshop for Landowners, Loggers, and Foresters, Windsor. For more information, contact the Knox-Lincoln SWCD @ 273-2005 ext. 101.
- Oct. 23 & 24 Maine Forest Service Consultant's Training, Alfred & Houlton
- October 26 Forest Ecosystem Information Exchange, Orono. "Forestry and the Riparian Zone". Register online at [www.manomentmaine.com/exchange](http://www.manomentmaine.com/exchange).

### ICE STORM UPDATE

#### Forest Management Plans:

Foresters have completed 2,344 plans covering 285,916 acres, with cost-share payments to landowners of over \$2 million. There are still 1,564 plans that have been approved for cost-share under the program that have not yet been completed.

Please inform your clients that they must apply for cost-share **BEFORE** they send the plan and claim for payment to the Maine Forest Service.

#### Stewardship Incentive Program:

So far, 791 practices have been completed through the SIP ice storm cleanup program, dispensing more than \$1.7 million in cost-share reimbursements. The most popular practices have been Recreation Trail cleanup & construction (more than 214 miles of trails completed), Access Corridor construction (41+ miles of roads), Erosion Control measures (1,521 acres served), and Timber Stand Improvement hazard reduction (1,254.5 acres).

## US FOREST SERVICE WEB SITE OFFERS FREE SOFTWARE DOWNLOAD

The US Forest Service Northeast Decision Model software can be downloaded free from the following web site:

[www.fs.fed.us/ne/burlington/index.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/burlington/index.htm)

Modules available are:

### ① Forest Stewardship Planning Guide

The Planning Guide assists a user through the process of determining what is wanted from the forest.

Because the Planning Guide does not use data from a specific forest, it is unable to detect whether goals conflict directly with each other and cannot make specific stand-based recommendations.

### ② NED/SIPS

NED/SIPS is an initial product of the development of NED. The computer program, subtitled Stand Inventory Processor and Simulator (SIPS), provides an effective means of creating, managing, and analyzing forest inventory records at the stand level. A variety of reports can be generated describing the vegetation structure, timber value, and economics of the stand. The user may apply any of a set of standard treatments to the stand or design a customized cutting scheme, and utilize one of the four incorporated stand growth simulators to show what the stand may look like in the future.

### ③ NEWILD

NEWILD is a computer program currently under beta test. The object of NEWILD is to assist in the access and evaluation of the information presented in the Species/Habitat matrices developed by DeGraaf et. al.

DeGraaf, R. M. and D. D. Rudis. 1986. New England wildlife: habitat, natural history, and distribution. Gen. Tech. Rep. NE-108. Broomall, PA: USDA Forest Service, NE Forest Expt. Sta.

DeGraaf, R. M., M. Yamasaki, W. B. Leak, and J. W. Lanier. 1992. New England wildlife: management of forested habitats. Gen. Tech. Rep. NE-144. Radnor, PA: USDA Forest Service, NE Forest Expt. Sta.

### ④ NED-1

NED-1 is a Windows program which emphasizes the analysis of forest inventory data from the perspective of the different forest resources. The resources addressed are aesthetics, ecology, forest health, timber, water and wildlife. NED-1 will evaluate to what degree individual stands, or the management unit as a whole, provide the conditions required to accomplish specific

goals. An extensive hypertext system will provide the user with information about the resource goals, the desired conditions that support achieving those goals, and the related data used to analyze the actual condition of the forest.

### ⑤ StewPlan

StewPlan (Forest Stewardship Plan) is a computer program being developed to help resource professionals develop a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan as part of the forest stewardship program sponsored by the US Forest Service and state forestry agencies. The StewPlan program will have simple user dialogs with blank areas for text input. This text will then be arranged into a printed report that can be submitted to the stewardship program.

### ⑥ NED Health

The Forest Health Module accounts for the influences of natural and human induced disturbances on forest management practices. Negative and positive effects of numerous insects and diseases are contained in the module, along with detrimental aspects of adverse weather, logging damage, animal grazing, and air pollution.

## BOOK REVIEW

Forest Raptors & Their Nests in Central Ontario: A Guide to Stick Nests & Their Uses. Szuba, K. and Naylor, B. 1998. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southcentral Sciences Section Field Guide FG-03.

This well illustrated (many excellent black and white drawings) field guide provides information on stick nests and related structures for people involved in forest management activities. It covers how to find and identify stick nests and the birds that build or use them, as well as some of the most important attributes of their behavior, habitat requirements, and the guidelines and modeling tools that should be considered when trying to protect them.

For information on obtaining copies of this guide, contact:

Southcentral Sciences Section  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
3301 Trout Lake Road  
North Bay, Ontario, Canada P1A 4L7  
(705) 475-5560

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FORESTRY: A NEW COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

*The Maine Forest Service is pleased to announce the introduction of a new limited period cost-share program for small woodlot owners. This program, **Rural Development Through Forestry (RDTF)** is designed to assist small woodlot owners who suffered financial losses on their forestland due to the January 1998 ice storms. The purpose of **Rural Development Through Forestry** is to improve the quality and health of forest stands that had little or no damage from the ice storms, thereby increasing productivity and growth potential and subsequently affording the landowner an increased value in the stumpage he may receive when harvesting in the future. This may somewhat offset the losses suffered in more heavily damaged stands.*

*There are \$500,000 available for this program. Practices eligible for cost-share under this program are Thinning, Pruning, Access Corridor Construction, and Forestland Erosion Control Measures. All practices will be cost-shared at a rate of 75% not to exceed the maximum allowed as outlined in the practice specifications. The program will expire on April 1, 2001, and all work must be completed and documented by that date to be eligible for reimbursement. All applications and claims-for-payment will be administered by Maine Forest Service District Foresters.*

*This is a limited period, limited scope program. If you work in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, or Washington counties and have not received an information package, please contact Kathy Nitschke at the Maine Forest Service at (207) 287-1073.*

## **WEB SITE FOR DOWNLOADING AERIAL PHOTOS**

*You can download USGS aerial photos from the Microsoft TerraServer web site at:*

**[terraserver.microsoft.com](http://terraserver.microsoft.com)**

*You can manipulate scale and really zero in on a particular site. Images from the USGS are free for download and distribution. Additionally, you are able to order maps or images from the USGS for a modest fee. Click the button on the image display page or visit the USGS Web site for more info.*

## **THE LAMMERT REPORT**

*With the downturn in building caused by the oversupply of finished housing units, the softwood market*

*especially logs used to saw out dimension (2X3 → 2X12), got soft and continued soft. Pine markets for the most part have held up but depending on upon who the individual pine mill sells to, there have been slowdowns in log purchases.*

*The hardwood market, particularly the red oak veneer log export markets, have been up. Several of the larger pulp mills have let loggers at their own delivery volumes and this action has upset the flow of trees and long length hardwoods to other markets, most notable of which are the larger fuelwood producers.*

*Combine this with the report that many smaller loggers have thrown in the towel and found work elsewhere in this booming economy, lays the ground work for further changes in the woods.*

*The fuelwood dealers I've talked to have had to pay more for stems and consequently have had to increase their price to cover both raw materials and fuel costs. Cut, split and delivered (green), broke the \$100/cord barrier early this summer and hovers in the \$105 - \$110/cord range now. With the cost of gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas expected to rise this winter, fuelwood will jump accordingly.*

*This could precipitate woodburners looking to paw over hardwood tops that have been left behind. Possibly a good way to reduce slash in the woods?*

*The number and names of log yards have been in flux this year. Several are quite close to each other. They are a boon to lazy loggers or those with only a few good logs of various species.*

*In closing, it is very important that you contact wood buyers and try and secure a steady price for the duration of an operation. Price fluctuations will occur as mill markets come and go.*

*-- Pete L.*

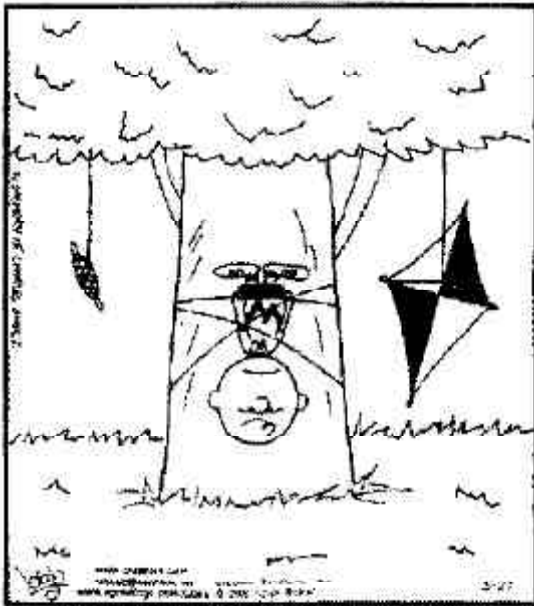
## **FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE:**

*The Office of Professional Development is now online making it faster and easier to see upcoming workshops and download the agenda and registration form. The address is as follows:*

**[www.forest-resources.umaine.edu/opd](http://www.forest-resources.umaine.edu/opd)**

**RUBES\***

**By Leigh Rubin**



**A LONG STRING OF EVENTS DURING HIS FORMATIVE YEARS WOULD ULTIMATELY HELP DETERMINE CHARLIE'S EXTREMELY STRONG PRO-LOGGING POSITION.**

-- By permission of Leigh Rubin and Creators Syndicate, Inc.

### **MAINE FOREST SERVICE STAFF CHANGES**

The Maine Forest Service has hired two new district foresters to cover Penobscot and Southern Aroostook Counties. They are:

Jim Ecker - Penobscot County  
Box 415  
Old Town, ME 04468  
(207) 827-6191

Dan Jacobs - Southern Aroostook County  
Route 1 Box 35  
Island Falls, ME 04747  
(207) 463-3653

Changes:

Gordon Moore - Piscataquis County  
P.O. Box 1107  
Greenville, ME 04441  
(207) 695-3721

Dave Rochester - Northern Aroostook County  
45 Radar Road  
Ashland, ME 04732  
(207) 435-7963

### **DEADLINES**

**September 15, 2000** All paperwork for SIP practices that are completed and to be paid in federal fiscal year 2000 **must** be at the Maine Forest Service Service Forester's office by this date. Any paperwork received after this date will automatically be put into federal fiscal year 2001 for payment. A landowner may receive up to \$10,000.00 in SIP payments per federal fiscal year.

**September 29, 2000** All County Farm Service Agency Offices will stop taking applications for SIP practices under the ice storm funding. There is no current regular funding for SIP and the county offices have already stopped taking applications under the regular program.

**December 31, 2000** All landowners enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Program must have a management plan in place.

**January 1, 2001** The Maine Forest Service will stop taking applications for cost-share for forest management planning under the ice storm funding. The Forest Stewardship Assistance Program will continue funding management plans, but we will be reverting to our regular funding and cost-share rates will reduce to 50%. A full list of allowable costs per acre will be forthcoming.

**April 1, 2001** The ice storm program is finished. All plans, practices, and paperwork must be completed by this date. Landowners whose plans are incomplete may reapply for cost-share under the Forest Stewardship Assistance Program at a reduced rate. They will not be automatically transferred to the regular program. Landowners who have incomplete SIP practices will not be reimbursed for their costs.

### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

A publication entitled, "Maine Citizen's Guide to Locating and Documenting Vernal Pools" is available from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This is a comprehensive, readable publication describing vernal pools and the species that depend on them. The manual can be obtained by sending requests along with \$3.50 (to cover shipping and handling) to MDIFW, 284 State Street, 41 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0041

## **EXCITING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

### **PLT/WILD Annual Conference**

**October 13 - 15, 2000**

**YMCA Camp, Winthrop, Maine**

*PROJECT LEARNING TREE (PLT) AND PROJECT WILD (WILD) invite all Licensed Professional Foresters to attend an exciting professional development experience, the PLT/WILD Annual Conference. Spend a beautiful autumn weekend on the shores of Cobbosseecontee Lake learning about these two educational programs, while becoming a trained PLT facilitator. You will see old friends, make new friend and have fun. This year you will hear about forest and wildlife programs, lake watershed work, available teacher resources and research projects being conducted on forest lands in Maine. Our Saturday evening keynote speaker, John Hagan from the Manomet Society, will share research from his recently published work, The Shifting Mosaic.*

### **Why should foresters attend?**

*If you are looking for a way to share your forestry knowledge and train others to use PLT materials, PLT needs you! PLT is used by teachers to increase students' understanding of our complex environment; to stimulate critical and creative thinking; to develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment. Take the next step and become a PLT Facilitator. At the end of this facilitator-training workshop (part of the annual conference) you'll become a member of the triad team that hosts workshops to train teachers. This conference qualifies for Licensed Professional Forester credits.*

### **Already a PLT Facilitator?**

*Here's a chance for everyone to exchange success stories, share resources, and meet our new facilitators and team leaders. Bring your PLT stories, workshop ideas and photos from past events*

### **When?**

- ♦ Starts: Friday, October 13th @ 5:00 p.m. (registration then dinner)
- ♦ Ends: After lunch on Sunday, October 15th

### **Where?**

*The Maine State YMCA Camp, on the shores of Cobbosseecontee Lake, East Winthrop, Maine. Hot showers and rustic cabins with bunkbeds offer you a chance to either reminisce or commune with nature. The keystone to all events is the recently renovated spacious dining hall with a modern kitchen.*

### **Registration Fees**

- ♦ Sponsored registration (paid by your employer) - \$75.00
- ♦ Others - \$50.00

*Fees include all materials, lodging, and meals from Friday evening dinner to Sunday lunch. Please bring your own bedding and towels.*

### **For additional information contact:**

- ♦ Kevin Doran, Natural Science Educator, MFS @ (207) 287-4988 or
- ♦ Pat Maloney, State Coordinator Project Learning Tree @ (207) 626-7990

### **SEND REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:**

*Maine TREE Foundation  
RR# 4 Box 2770  
Winslow, Maine 04901*

### **WATERSHEDS**

*Knowing where the land you are on drains to, and where else on the landscape drains to the same waterbody, adds a whole new perspective to managing woodlands for multiple values. For many small woodlots, the connection to a local watershed or waterbody may be one of the few "landscape- level" management considerations that can be identified with any certainty.*

*The website at **www.stopnps.com** has a feature that helps identify what watershed(s) a property is located in. It allows you to identify a location by town or by known watershed, navigate upstream or downstream in the watershed, and explore the multiple layers of large watershed, subwatersheds, down to fairly small local watersheds. The site features information on nonpoint source pollution, and may be helpful for understanding and describing drainage patterns/landscape context in management plans, as well as for highlighting/planning Best Management Practices (BMPs).*

### **ATLANTIC SALMON**

*There will be a great opportunity to learn more about Atlantic Salmon and the issues surrounding them*

at an Open House of the Sheepscot River Watershed Council. The event will take place on Wednesday, September 20th, from 6-7 p.m., at the Windsor Town Hall on Route 32 in Windsor. State agencies (including MFS), and other salmon conservation partners will have displays describing their efforts to protect salmon and salmon habitat, and a slide show of council activities will be shown at 6:30. The bimonthly meeting of the Council will follow at 7 p.m.

The Sheepscot River Watershed Council will also host a Forestry Workshop on October 11th, also at the Windsor Town Hall. The workshop will address a wide variety of forestry and salmon issues. The morning session from 8-12 will be geared toward basic forestry nuts and bolts and questions typical of landowners. The afternoon session from 12:30 - 4 will include more information on salmon wildlife considerations and riparian forest management. Landowners, foresters, loggers, and others are invited to attend either or both sessions. LPF and CLP credits will be available, and there is no fee. Preregistration may be sent to the Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, 191 Camden Road, Warren, ME 04864.

### **PLC LAUNCHES MASTER LOGGER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The Professional Logging Contractors of Maine has made a decision to investigate a new performance bar that will certify harvesting practices and bring the logging profession into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by detailing what people need to know and be able to do. This program is called Master Logger, and it is a voluntary assessment process of performance standards which relate to the top certification programs being used by the industry.

This new logger labor model is designed to reward the best of the very best. Loggers are not responsible for the "why" or the "what" of forestry, but they are responsible for the "how". The consistency of excellent harvesting practices from tree to roadside will only increase the safety on the ground, for the logger and for the environment.

The Master Logger program will bring about better negotiation with long term Stewardship Contracts and bring consistency to the harvesting practices on the landscape rather than by ton, acre, or stand. It will also serve as an acknowledgment by the public and the industry as to what loggers have measurably added to the sustainability of the forest. Perhaps more importantly, it will increase loggers' ability to maintain solvency and make a reasonable profit while creating an employment

environment which has career ladders and opportunity for increased hourly wages.

The first step in the development of Master Logger Certification involved identifying twelve Areas of Responsibility that communicate what we know and are able to do to ensure certifiable harvest practices. These twelve areas are:

- 1) Enhancing water quality
- 2) Honoring forest ecosystems
- 3) Supporting soil productivity
- 4) Conducting a pre and post harvest site audit
- 5) Initiating & complying with all safety regulations and preventative strategies
- 6) Applying science-based research practices to on-site harvesting practices
- 7) Demonstrating continuous improvement through ongoing training and leadership opportunities
- 8) Demonstrating cost efficiency and long term planning for economic viability
- 9) Contributing to local, regional, and statewide economic indicators for healthy forest communities
- 10) Assuring continuity of timber resources for future generations
- 11) Developing in-woods technology usage for on-site problem solving and harvest management
- 12) Managing visual impacts based on public expectations.

The second step in the development of Master Logger certification involved developing Performance Standards for each of the twelve Areas of Responsibility. These Performance Standards articulate what Master Loggers are able to accomplish and document in the forest.

The final step involved developing Key Indicators of Quality for each Performance Standard. Individual Master Loggers may add additional Key Indicators which answer county regulations or logger association codes of practice.

If you have questions or would like to receive the complete Master Logger Certification document, please contact the PLC office at (207) 794-8377.